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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/009,383	03/04/2002	Maria Laura Gennaro	07763-043001	7070

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

SWARTZ, RODNEY P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1645	9

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Offic Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/009,383	GENNARO, MARIA LAURA	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Rodney P. Swartz, Ph.D.	1645	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23April2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 19-34 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 19-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-34 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 1645

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's Response to Restriction, received 23 April 2003, paper #8, is acknowledged. Applicant elects, without traverse, Invention I, claims 1-18, drawn to DNA, vector, transformed cells, polypeptides, and a first method of use for diagnosis *in vivo*.

Claims 19-34 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention.

2. Claims 1-18 are under consideration.

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - a) page 14, line 6, should "MPBN4" be "MTBN4",

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Art Unit: 1645

6. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for MTBN4, does not reasonably provide enablement for the other listed polypeptides. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

The instant claims are drawn to isolated DNA comprising DNA sequences encoding a variety of polypeptides wherein said polypeptide has *M. tuberculosis* specific antigenic and immunologic properties.

The instant specification only teaches MTBN4 skin reactivity in guinea pigs infected with *M. tuberculosis*, sensitized with *M. bovis* BCG, or sensitized with *M. avium*. The specification does not teach any reactivities with the other listed polypeptides. Therefore, the specification is only enabled for DNA encoding MTBN4.

7. Claims 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for MTBN4 skin reactivity in guinea pigs infected with *M. tuberculosis*, sensitized with *M. bovis* BCG, or sensitized with *M. avium*, does not reasonably provide enablement for diagnosis of susceptibility to *M. tuberculosis* infection. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

The instant claims are drawn to a method of diagnosis by detecting an immune response in a subject which is "susceptible" to *M. tuberculosis*.

Art Unit: 1645

While the instant specification teaches a method of detecting skin reactivity in guinea pigs infected with *M. tuberculosis*, sensitized with *M. bovis* BCG, or sensitized with *M. avium*, the specification does not teach nor provide sufficient guidance for detecting whether an individual subject is "susceptible" to infection with *M. tuberculosis*. Therefore, the instant claims merely constitute an invitation to experiment without a reasonable expectation of success.

Conclusion

8. No claims are allowed.
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rodney P. Swartz, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (703) 308-4244. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 5:30 AM to 4:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynette F. Smith, can be reached on (703)308-3909. The facsimile telephone number for the Art Unit Group is (703)308-4242.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0196.


RODNEY P SWARTZ, PH.D
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Art Unit 1645

June 30, 2003